

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested in light of the above amendments and the following comments. The claims have been amended to better describe the invention. New claims 34-40 have been added to round out the potential scope of protection. No new matter has been added, as these amendments are fully supported in the originally filed application.

Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's rejection of claims 1-4, 6-10, 12-14, 16-18, 20-30, 32 and 33 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Palen et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,205,266. Applicants note that claims 1-6, 8, 21 and 29 have been canceled, thereby leaving claims 7, 9-10, 12-14, 16-18, 20, 22-29, 32 and 33 subject to this rejection. Applicants respectfully submit that Palen et al. fail to teach the claimed invention.

Claim 7 (and claims 10-12 depending therefrom) is directed to a method of testing an optical collimator with a mirror. Palen et al. do not describe or suggest such a testing method. Rather, Palen et al. are directed to aligning an optical fiber with a lens. Palen et al. do not describe or suggest the claimed method of testing an optical collimator with a mirror. As one of skill in the art will recognize, light that passes through the optical collimator will become collimated, or parallel. This parallel light can be reflected by the mirror and can subsequently pass back through the optical collimator. Palen et al. simply do not describe or suggest an optical collimator that receives parallel light that has been emitted by the optical collimator.

Claim 9 is directed to a method of testing a first optical collimator using a second optical collimator. As noted with respect to claim 7, one of skill in the art will recognize that light passing through the first optical collimator will become parallel. The parallel light leaving the first optical collimator will pass through the second optical collimator. Palen et al. do not describe or suggest a second optical collimator that receives parallel light that has been emitted by a first optical collimator.

Claim 13 (and claims 14 and 16 depending therefrom) is directed to a method of aligning a collimation lens and an optical fiber of an optical collimator using a moving optical element. Light passing through the optical collimator will become parallel. Any such parallel light that is reflected by the optical element can pass back through the optical collimator. As noted above, Palen et al. do not describe passing parallel light through an optical collimator.

Claim 17 (and claims 18 and 20 depending therefrom) is directed to a method of aligning a collimation lens and an optical fiber of an optical collimator using an optical element by moving the optical collimator. Light passing through the optical collimator will become parallel. Any such parallel light that is reflected by the optical element can pass back through the optical collimator. As noted above, Palen et al. do not describe passing parallel light through an optical collimator.

Claim 22 is directed to a method of testing an optical collimator using a scanning mechanism to move an optical element and an optical sensor for measuring intensity of light passing through the optical collimator. As noted above, light passing through the optical collimator will become parallel. Any such parallel light that is reflected by the optical element can pass back through the optical collimator. As noted above, Palen et al. do not describe passing parallel light through an optical collimator.

Claim 23 (and claims 24-27 depending therefrom) is directed to a method of testing an optical collimator using a scanning mechanism to move either an optical element or the optical collimator and an optical sensor for measuring intensity of light passing through the optical collimator. As noted above, light passing through the optical collimator will become parallel. Any such parallel light that is reflected by the optical element can pass back through the optical collimator. As noted above, Palen et al. do not describe passing parallel light through an optical collimator.

Claim 28 is directed to a method of testing an optical collimator using an optical element and an optical sensor for measuring intensity of light passing through the optical collimator. As discussed above, light passing through the optical collimator will become parallel. Any such parallel light that is reflected by the optical element can pass back through the optical collimator. Palen et al. do not describe passing parallel light through an optical collimator.

Claims 32 and 33 depend from, and further limit, claim 31. As claim 31 has not been indicated to be obvious over Palen et al. alone, claims 32 and 33 are similarly patentable over Palen et al. The cited combination of Palen et al. and Kiryuscheva et al., with respect to claim 31, is discussed below with regard to the second obviousness rejection.

Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's rejection of claims 5, 11, 15, 19 and 31 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Palen et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,205,266, in view of

Kiryuscheva et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,859,947. As noted above, claim 5 has been canceled. Therefore, claims 11, 15, 19 and 31 are subject to this rejection. Palen et al. are distinguished above as failing to teach the invention of independent claims 9, 13 and 17. Claims 11, 15 and 19, respectively, depend from these claims and add additional limitations thereto. Thus, claims 11, 15 and 19 are similarly patentable over Palen et al.

With respect to claim 31, Kiryuscheva et al. is relied upon by the Examiner to suggest a step of fixing the optical element at a position at which the measured light reaches a maximum, followed by moving the work along the optical axis. However, the claimed invention requires that the work include a collimation lens. Light passing through the collimation lens will become parallel. Any such parallel light that is reflected by the optical element can pass back through the collimator lens. Neither reference describes or suggests passing parallel light through an optical collimator.

Reexamination and reconsideration are respectfully requested. It is respectfully submitted that all pending claims are now in condition for allowance. Issuance of a Notice of Allowance in due course is requested. If a telephone conference might be of assistance, please contact the undersigned attorney at (612) 677-9050.

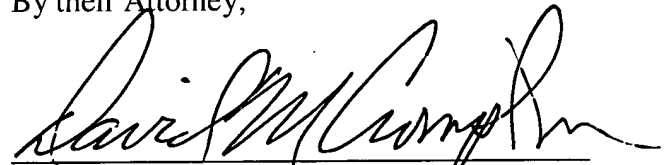
Respectfully submitted,

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By their Attorney,

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